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International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

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Justice (Vol. 3, Iss. 16)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

Comments

Justice was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

"My righteous-
ness I hold fast,
and will not let
it go."
—Job. 27.6

JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

"Workers
of the world
unite! You
have nothing to
lose but your
chains."

Vol. III. No. 16

New York, Friday, April 15, 1921

Price, 2 Cents

CLOAK PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION SEEKS FIGHT WITH UNION

On Tuesday, April 13th, there appeared in the trade papers of the women's garment industry of New York, a report of the annual meeting of the Cloak Manufacturers' Protective Association, held on the previous evening at Hotel Astor. The chairman of that meeting was Mr. Louis Lentz.

The principal point on the order of the day was the present situation in the cloak industry of New York. The breach of relations between the Protective Association and the Cloakmakers' Union, and the number of individual strikes resulting therefrom, was under discussion. According to press statements, a decision was adopted by the Association which in-

cludes the following three demands:
1. A general reduction of wages.
2. Longer working hours.
3. The right to discharge at will.
The trade papers, however, do not mention to whom the Protective Association intends to present these demands, nor does it state how the Protective Association intends to obtain these demands. As it is well known, the relations between this Association and the Union were broken off a number of months ago.

Following the receipt of this report, a special meeting of the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union was held on Wednesday evening, at which the grave situation provoked

by the manufacturers' declaration of hostilities was thoroughly gone over. The Cloakmakers' Union was never in its existence as strong and as prepared for any aggression on the part of the employers in the trade as it is today. Needless to say that any attempt on the part of the members of the Protective Association to enforce their demands by a strong hand will meet with determined resistance on the part of the members of the Union. The days of autocracy in the shops have gone by, never to return. The cloakmakers are organized at present and are all of one mind, to retain their full share of control of working conditions, hours and wages in the cloak industry of New York.

CINCINNATI CLOAK STRIKE SETTLED

After a strike which lasted almost three months, the workers of the firm of Bishop, Sterne & Stein, the leading shop in Cincinnati, Ohio, have returned to work, after winning practically all the demands for which they have been fighting.

Vice-President Perlestein has wired to the General Office as follows: "Signed agreement with Bishop, Sterne & Stein. Contract provides for week work and the minimum wage scale. Question of control of wages above the minimum, also some method to keep track of production, left to arbitration, to be arbitrated within the next two weeks."

This is a signal victory for the principle of week work, for which the workers in that shop have been contending so stubbornly and to the upholding of which the International had given its unqualified support.

INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS CITED IN CONTEMPT OF COURT

To the many injunction cases issued against the International there was added last week a contempt of court case started at the initiative of the well-known Union-baiting firm of Floersheimer & Co. On March 8, Justice Newburger of the Supreme Court had issued an injunction to this firm which prohibited its striking workers from picketing their shop. The firm contends now that the Union disobeyed this injunction. It also alleges that an article appearing in "Justice" of April 8 spoke in derogatory terms of that particular injunction. As a matter of fact, the article referred to was a paragraph from the "Declaration to the American People" adopted by the Special Conference of the American Federation of Labor which is being reprinted in our organ.

The facts in the case are that the Union has withdrawn all pickets from the Floersheimer shop after the injunction had been issued. There are, however, located in that same building two other shops, the Lask Manufacturing Co. and the Duke Dress Co., against whom the Union is conducting a strike. The Floersheimer firm—in collusion with these

other two firms—is now trying to create the impression that the Union is still picketing its shop and thus succeed in preventing the workers from the Lask and Duke shops from peacefully picketing their factories. The contempt charges are directed against all the officers of the International, and include President Schlesinger, Vice-President Sigman, I. Scheinholz, the secretary of Local 25 and Israel Lewin, Secretary to Local 10. They are to appear before Justice Gavegan of the Supreme Court on April 14th.

Meanwhile the anti-injunction movement in New York is assuming formidable proportions having enlisted on its behalf the entire organized labor movement of the Greater City and the aid of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor.

Last Saturday President Gompers who came to New York specially for this purpose held a conference with President Schlesinger and Morris Hillquit, counsel to the International, to familiarize himself with the legal aspects of the injunction case. In the afternoon of that day there was

held at the Hotel Marcellis a meeting of the Executive Board of the New York Central Trades and Labor Council where Gompers and Schlesinger had laid the gravity of the injunction situation before the members of the Board. After deliberate discussions the Executive Board issued the following statement which sums up in full its attitude and determination to combat to the limit the abuse of injunction power in labor disputes by the courts:

"The Executive Committee of the Central Trades and Labor Council will continue the following policy in combating the abuse of the injunction power of the courts by the means of unfair and conductive injunctions by which the rights of labor are being taken away from its organized labor. It will be held in about three weeks at Madison Square Garden, and every worker who in this city will be asked to attend. This meeting will be addressed by many of our prominent leaders in the striking of American industry."

James Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, will be invited to cooperate with the help in the plan to fight the use of injunctions in labor disputes. The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor will be invited to take action in the New York State Federation of Labor will be invited to join the Central Trades and Labor Council in this movement.

"The committee of the central body will take the question into the unions and advise the members of the unions that surround the abuse of the injunction for the purpose and close interests that are opposed to labor."

A special committee of the following members were appointed to work out the details of the plan: William P. Drake, J. P. Connelley, James J. Connelley, Thomas J. Carlin, John McLaughlin, Joseph P. Drake, Ralph Schilling and Jerome H. Keating.

STATE LABOR CONVENTION TO FIGHT ALBANY REACTION

The avalanche of reactionary legislation which has begun pouring out from the legislative mill at Albany, from the first day it assembled in January, has created a widespread wave of indignation and resentment throughout the labor movement of the State of New York. The virtual destruction of the State Labor Commission by the Miller program, the repeal of the law prohibiting night work for women and minors, and the indiscriminate slaughter of every progressive and labor measure proposed at this session of the legislature, has brought home to the leaders of the workers in the State, the extreme necessity of getting together to fight back the wave of reaction that is sweeping everything before it in the Empire State.

As a result, a special convention of the New York State Federation of Labor was called at Albany on Thursday, April 14th, to plan methods for a comprehensive fight against the reactionary Legislature of our State. A statewide campaign, which will be carried into every assembly and senate district, is to be proposed and a mighty protest movement against the annihilation of labor legislation will be launched. The International will be represented at this convention through Vice-Presidents Harry Wander and Fannie M. Cohn. The Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union has sent a delegation consisting of Brothers M. Pinkovsky, the chairman; I. Feinberg, manager, and Louis Langer, secretary.

Borgenicht Firm Denied Injunction

Justice Delahanty of the Supreme Court, on Monday last, refused an injunction to the firm of Borgenicht & Son, a children's dress concern, against Local No. 50 of our International.

The workers of this shop have been on strike for several months and the firm has found it extremely difficult to get any workers to do its seam work. Lately, however, the firm decided, rather than deal with the union, to seek an injunction and try to win the strike through the aid of the courts.

In this, however, it failed completely. Judge Delahanty stated in clear terms that the attempt of the

INJUNCTION WAVE HITS N.J. EMBROIDERERS

Emulating the example of their brethren in the ladies' garment industry of New York, a score of non-union embroidery manufacturers in Hudson County, N. J., have banded together and succeeded in obtaining a temporary injunction against the Embroidery Workers' Union, Local No. 6.

The interesting point about this is this: The Embroidery Workers' Union has fought and won a strike in Hudson County several weeks ago, which included the majority of the shops in the county. At present there is no more striking going on there, except that the union is conducting a peaceful organization campaign. Nevertheless, the anti-labor laws of New Jersey are so drastic that even in peaceful times a union can be prohibited from conducting its normal activities. The temporary injunction is the most sweeping of its kind and prohibits practically every form of labor union work and endeavor.

The case will be heard in Trenton on April 14th. The employers are represented through a former Vice-Chancellor, Merritt Lane, and the union is represented through the law firm of Frank, Weil & Strauss.

In addition to that, Local No. 6 is now being sued by the North Hudson Embroidery Company for \$25,000 upon the allegation that the union has succeeded in enrolling one of its employees into the organization and was instrumental in having that person abrogate his agreement with the firm. This suit is in line with a number of similar suits brought in New York by waist manufacturers on the ground of sham agreements entered between them and some of their strike breakers when it was alleged that the union has tended, through its activities, to promote the abrogation of these contracts.

Firm to obtain a court injunction was not justifiable under the circumstances. The union is conducting the strike in a legitimate manner and it could not be restrained from pursuing its regular activities.

TRADE UNIONS OR SHOP COMMITTEES?

By LOUIS FINKELSTEIN

Trade unionism is not a new movement. It is a recognized and established feature of industrial life. Shop committees, on the other hand, are a new product and a recent development. Perhaps it is an account of that some people regard it as a "progressive" shop, something that will "work out better" than the existing trade unions in settling industrial disputes between labor and capital.

We don't know exactly who is immediately responsible for the discovery of this industrial panacea, the shop committee. One thing is certain, the enemies of unionism and of the labor movement think highly of this new method and prefer it to the old workers' organization. The shop committee idea has found its most ardent supporters among employers of the union-baiting category, such who would have nothing to do with a labor union; and it is those employers that are actively advancing the idea of shop committees as an antidote to trade unions.

At the start, this propaganda was conducted quietly. The bosses, at first, intended to get the idea across as a pure "labor plan." They wanted to create the impression that the workers themselves demanded it and that it meant a blessing to the working class. Provocateurs were sent out among the workers to spread the new gospel. Those who are inclined to turn this assertion as the exaggerated opinion of an opponent, are referred to a report on the "open shop" movement issued recently by the Bureau of Industrial Research of New York City. The Bureau has a trade union socialist institution. It is an agency for the study of social and

industrial problems, and it has recently turned its attention to investigating the original source of the "open shop" propaganda.

In this report facts are being advanced which prove beyond peradventure that the forces behind this movement include the Steel Trust, the union-baiting National Association of Manufacturers, the National Metal Trades Association and a number of similar combinations. In addition to these industrial associations, the American Bankers' Association, the chief group of money lenders in the country, is in league with the employers to combat the unions.

This combination of enemies of labor have begun their activities rather quickly. The preparations for the fight were made in total secrecy. It was intended to throw a progressive cloak over this dark movement and play with liberal slogans in order to delude the "public." The financiers, together with the captains of industry, were aware of the fact that the time was not propitious for an open shop movement to break the union. The conditions of unrest the world over—while not affecting America directly—were not compatible with an open and unswerving campaign of destruction against the labor movement. The aggression, therefore, decided to "convince" the public that the fight is being conducted for the "American plan," for the "American idea," for shop committees. Among their other slogans were such like "individual freedom," the "open shop" and similar attractive notions laid upon "100 per cent Americanism."

Here is in part the program which this combination of bankers and man-

ufacturers had adopted in their campaign to destroy the unions:

To launch a propaganda which would bring the great masses of the public to realize that the "union tyrannies the workers, injures industry, increases the high cost of living, and that American ideals are generally opposed to the union shop." Not to extend credit or sell raw materials to such employers who would not range themselves on their side, against the unions.

To bribe union leaders and to bewitch them after that before the public.

To infect the unions with agents provocateurs who would inform employers about active trade union workers and disclose all plans of the unions with regard to industrial fights.

And here follows the most important point, as far as this article is concerned, in their program; namely: To preach or to advance the idea of organizing shop committees as opposed to trade unions.

We shall omit all the other methods of warfare which these conspirators against the labor movement have adopted in their nation-wide fight. We shall only dwell upon the fact that among the principal points of their programs there is the commitment to agitate among the workers the idea of the shop committees and to either destroy the labor unions entirely through this innovation, or to weaken them to a great extent. No more eloquent warning is needed for the workers to keep away from these shop committees and to watch their origin in each and every factory, than this support given to the shop committees by their enemies!

It appears that the employers have sought to create in secrecy among the organized workers a sentiment for shop committees through employing spies and trusted men. They worked principally among union men and women and paid no attention whatever to unorganized workers, in the obvious belief that they could combat the latter class with no particular effort. The secret propaganda for shop committees has had, however, little success among organized workers. The masses of unionists have not been affected by it in the least, and in spite of the fact that the plan was advanced as beneficial to the workers, the labor unions throughout the country have regarded it from the very start as a snare and a trap. The attempt to trot it out as a "radical reform" has flatly failed.

The employers, however, have not given up their effort in this direction. After it had become clear that the secret agitation for shop committees has brought no results, they decided to come out with the plan in the open, in the hope that it might gain recruits for itself among the great masses of the working population of the country. As a result, the agitation for shop committees is now being conducted in daylight. Pages are devoted to it in trade papers, and the "American plan" which advocates these shop committees in the place of trade unions is being heralded as a step towards industrial millennium.

The trade union movement of the country is, of course, just as opposed to it now that the agitation for the plan has broken out in the open, as it was when the employers have manipulated it in the dark. The labor movement knows the source of this new plague intended for the purpose of harrying the trade unions, and is confident that the workers will not be ensnared into it.

MISCELLANIES FROM CHICAGO

By H. SCHOOLMAN

Already five years ago we have talked and agitated among our members in Chicago for a labor bureau. Already at that time we pointed out to them the great moral and material importance that our cloaksmakers might derive from such an agency. Instead of knocking at every shop door, begging for a job, our men and women would be able to get jobs whenever they were to be had, in a decent manner, namely, through an employment department conducted by the union. We made a point, at that time, that when our employers are short of the privilege of adding their men from the numerous applicants at their own whim and caprice, their respect for the workers will materially increase.

Regrettably, the circumstances of that period and the lack of confidence by most of our workers in the practicability of such a plan, in addition to a certain amount of suspicion entertained by the rank and file towards the managers-to-be of this bureau—who might hand out the better jobs to their own favorites—have made the establishment of such a labor bureau an impossibility. It must be kept in mind, likewise, that we worked at that time under the piece work system, when each and everyone of us was head over heels engaged in the "proletarian" occupation of bargaining over every coat, suit or skirt about to be made in this bureau. A method which would do away with the chasing around after jobs—not infrequently to the homes of the foremen, designers, head cutters and head pressers, was altogether too radical a measure at that attack at the heart of the bargain-

counter system that prevailed throughout the cloak trade.

The cutters and the pressers, the oldest and the newest branches of our union, respectively, have now established such labor agencies. Although it is yet too early to utter an opinion with regard to the workability of these bureaus, we are convinced that before long our members in general will become converted to the necessity of such an institution within our organization. We wish the two above mentioned locals, the pioneers of this idea, luck and good speed.

We wish to call the attention of every cutter and presser in Chicago that henceforth any attempt on their part to go around seeking jobs on their own account will be regarded as a misdemeanor from the point of view of the organization. These two locals will not let such a violation of their rules pass unpunished. The place to look for a job from now on is the office of the union. As soon as a man's turn is reached, he will be sent to work without discrimination or favoritism.

Thanks to Local No. 6, or rather to a few active members of Local No. 6, we shall soon have a strike fund in our union which will reach the rather imposing sum of \$150,000. No sooner did the operators' local decide to tax each man \$25 for this fund, than our finishers' local, No. 59, followed the example of Local No. 6 and taxed the finishers \$15 each, and the button sewers \$10 each. The pressers, not wishing to be behind

times, assessed each member \$10 apiece, and the cutters, according to our information, are about to decide upon a similar action.

Thus a goodly part of the ammunition without which a strike is impossible nowadays, is being raised. The other ingredients of a good organization are enthusiasm and the devotion to each and every factory, the ladies' garment workers in the Middle West have a sufficient supply of this material and we are not worried about its exhaustion either. The probability of a conflict in our industry are always present, we must be always ready for it. Our members rightly maintain that if the bosses will know that we are ready for them, they will probably not be any too anxious to get into a fight.

For the time being we are very busy with collection of funds. Our people pay their dues and taxes with a will and zeal, and when one considers the fact that times are not any too good in Chicago, this fact is a source of sincere gratification to all of us. One wants to believe that the time has finally come when each and every one of our members is ready to meet his or her obligations when called upon without flinching.

The relative or absolute success of work week is still being discussed in our circles. Some believe that certain changes, modifications, will have to be made in the near future to remove certain objections advanced by the employers. Others, and these are in the great majority, believe that no

changes are necessary. They believe that it is only a question of time and all will be straightened out. The question of production, minimum wages, as well as the minimum, will regulate themselves in the course of time so that no disputes will arise with regard thereto. No matter what one's opinion is about the working out of the details of the week work system, all are uniformly agreed that no return to piece work is possible. This has become ingrained even in the minds of a great many of our employers, and the former opponents of week work admit that fact. Of course, there is still a healthy amount of irascibility left, and those, not being able to get on piece work in our shops, have chosen to open up little "corporation" shops, so called, violating not only the rules of the union, but the elementary rules of work and labor. When one points out to them the detrimental effect of their actions upon the workers and the industry in general, they reply that they have a perfect right to be "their own employers," their "own masters." We cannot call a strike against such "employers"; they are the only workers in these tiny shops, and a strike against them would be futile.

Our union is doing everything in its power to destroy these little parasites, but the job is both difficult and unpleasant. The ugly feature about it is that many of our members, who do not grasp the demoralizing effect of these little corporation shops, still associate with their workers and become infected with their views and ideas. We believe, therefore, it will be necessary to start an agitation among our members which will not only help to abolish the already existing small corporation shops, but will have the effect of keeping our members from associating with those renegades, this modern edition of old-time usaberry.

JUSTICE

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EDITORIALS

THE MISUSE OF INJUNCTION POWER

At last, the fight against the injunction epidemic is to be carried out from the stifling atmosphere of the courts, into the wide and open public arena. Public opinion must be enlightened about the use of injunctions in labor disputes, a use which has degenerated into a practical violation of the most elementary rights of citizenship. It must be made clear that injunction writs directed against workers on strike are essentially aimed at every person in this country who believes in freedom and democracy.

On the surface of things it is suffering from such a fight is futile; that public opinion can do but little, unless the workers themselves are determined to combat this abuse of human rights at their own cost and through their own efforts. However, this is only partly true. All these sacrifices on the part of the workers will be in vain as long as public opinion is not fully familiarized with their purpose and aim.

Let us assume that there are in our ranks a sufficient number of leaders and workers who are ready to combat the abuse of injunctions. Let us assume, further, that they have been punished for their courageous stand. What will these sacrifices avail if the general public will regard these martyrs as ordinary criminals? In order that their self-imposed sufferings may have the desired effect and strike at the root of the injunction evil, the public must be well informed about the true significance of the use of injunctions in labor disputes. They must fully understand that persons sentenced to prison terms for fighting the misuse of injunctions in labor cases are not criminals, but idealists, men who are fighting for a principle and are willing to pay the penalty for it. Only when conducted in such a manner can the struggle against the abuse of the injunction power in labor disputes bring the desired results.

In another place of this issue, the reader will find all the details of the planned campaign. Let us hope that it will be conducted so strenuously that it will finally arouse public opinion to the menace of the injunction plague, and will place it unmistakably on the side of the workers in this grave contest.

A BETTER SPIRIT IN THE WAIST AND DRESS LOCALS

A new and better spirit has appeared among the waist and dressmakers of New York. The writer of these lines was present, last week, at a surprise banquet tendered to Vice-President Sigman by the Joint Board in the Waist and Dress Industry, in recognition of his work as manager of this Joint Board for the last few months. We are compelled to admit that we have felt painfully this new spirit that animated all those who we recently were such irreconcilable "revolutionists" and such obstinate and bitter opponents of our "reactionary" International and its decisions affecting the waist and dress industry.

The selfsame Sigman, who only recently was regarded by some people in the waist and dress organization as a "reformer," as the International's "receiver," appointed to hinder the "revolutionists" in the enactment of their great plans, was praised to the skies for all he had achieved in his four month's management of the Joint Board. There was not one among those who spoke who did not express his or her regrets for Brother Sigman's resignation.

The very fact that the entire Joint Board had unanimously decided to express its appreciation in such a beautiful form to this veteran leader of our Union, is an eloquent sign that a change for the better has really taken place among the waist and dressmakers of New York; that the time for empty phrase-flinging and meaningless hysteria is gone and that an era of common sense, of looking things straight in the face and appraising them at their value, is finally dawning.

Insofar as Vice-President Sigman had aided in this metamorphosis, he has a right to feel justly proud. It is doubtless one of his finest accomplishments since he has taken his place in the leading ranks of our movement. As reported in "Justice," his place has been taken, since last week, by Vice-President Jacob Halpern. Those who know Bro. Halpern, his energy and his inexhaustible will to "make good" and ability to grasp and tackle situations, will agree with us that he is a worthy successor of Morris Sigman.

We have not the slightest doubt that the good beginning made by Brother Sigman in the direction of efficiency, sanity and accomplishment, will receive its proper development under the leadership of Brother Halpern. The various locals in the waist and dress industry must become as strong and as influential for the good of the entire membership as has become our invincible "Cloakmakers' Union."

THEY AND WE

In England the miners have gone on strike and the Government and the entire country—so we read in the papers—are dreading the spectre of revolution. The streets of London and of other

industrial centres in England are crowded with soldiers, mobilized by the government for the fight with the "inside enemy." At the same time, cables report that conferences are taking place between the miners and the mine owners, in an effort to find a solution to the present controversy.

Somewhat we are doubtful. Don't they at all know in England what an injunction is? Haven't they heard of the miracles performed by an injunction in America, only recently, in the case of the general strike of the miners? And if an injunction is such an invincible strikbreaker in America, why cannot it perform similar services in England? Lloyd George is widely known as a person who is not very finicky about choosing means of combat. He is one of those who believes that "aims sanctify means." Could there be a holier object than "saving the country"? Why then does he permit such an upheaval all over England, such a demoralization of vested interests, when he could strike at the root of the affair through an injunction and the jailing of the leaders of the strike?

Is it possible that the English government knows in advance that in England, for English workers, the use of the injunction is not a remedy? Is it possible that the English labor leaders are built of such stuff that would meet the threat of a prison term with derisive laughter? We are inclined to believe that it is so. Had it been otherwise, Lloyd George would have long since taken advantage of the injunction whip, would have jailed the leaders and broken the strike. Lloyd George, perhaps, knows that had even the leaders ordered the men to go back to work under the threat of the injunction, that the million and a half miners would not have obeyed their leaders and the mines of England would still remain unmined, if a real answer to mind only problems of wages and working conditions, which is such a terrific weapon against American strikers, has no terror whatever in England; it is sought, one can find the explanation only in the fact that one cannot lead labor in England unless he is ready to assume all the responsibilities and travails of leadership. One who is afraid of prison, apparently, cannot be a labor leader in England; one who is not ready to sacrifice his very life for the interests of the workers, one who has not the courage of his convictions and cannot or would not suffer for them, cannot lead the workers of England.

This standard of leadership gives us, perhaps, a better insight into the mental makeup of the English worker than anything else. It used to be said that "a nation has such a government which it deserves." This saying is even truer of the labor movement. Each labor movement has such leaders which it deserves. The fact that the English labor movement has raised such leaders against whom injunctions are futile is the best proof that the English labor movement is fundamentally different from ours. We do not wish to imply by this that the English labor movement is thoroughly revolutionary and that it is concerned only with world upheavals, while our own labor movement keeps in mind only problems of wages and working conditions. This is far from the truth. The English workers, progressive as they are, do not go out on strike for immediate revolutions. They would not have been conferring or bargaining with their employers were it so. In England too the workers are fighting for a greater slice of bread and for more living comforts. As a matter of fact, the revolutionary miners of England are contending today for the wages that their brothers in America get.

We could multiply examples tending to prove that the English worker is a practical person and takes what he can get, leaving other aims to be taken care of by the future. In his spirit and feeling and consciousness, however, he is different from the American worker. He is spiritually more developed, and while he looks forward to his immediate aims, he sees with his mental eye the future, and combines the practical with the idealistic, while the American worker is, in most cases, only an adherent of the practical side of life, of the "nothing but business" philosophy. He scoffs at idealism, at anything and everything that belongs to the future. The English worker, on the other hand, regards "tomorrow" as the continuation of "today" and cannot think of "today" without thinking of "tomorrow."

Therein lies the key to the greatness and strength of the English movement and the comparative weakness and hopelessness of our own. Think over the following facts! The railwaymen and transport workers of England are not interested directly in the miners' strike. Nevertheless, they have decided to go out in a sympathy strike if the miners' demands are not granted. At this moment, it is not definite whether this step has already been taken. It is organized, however, that 400,000 railwaymen and a quarter of a million of transport workers are ready to down tools to help win the strike of the coal miners. Can there be a more eloquent demonstration of the spirit of the English labor movement?

On the other hand, we recall the carmen's strike in New York, a few years ago. That strike could have been won had the appeal of the strikers to the labor movement of New York been heeded. The carmen workers of New York, however, remained indifferent and the strike was lost. Last year we had a steel strike in the United States. Had the mine workers aided the steel strikers; had the railwaymen given them the necessary assistance; had organized labor in America in general not been as criminally indifferent to the strike, that fight would have been won. The American workers, however, with the exception of our own unions, have kept away from the steel strikers as from a plague.

Enough of these illustrations. We have marshaled them before our readers in order to prove the fundamental difference between "them" and "ourselves." How little and insignificant all our achievements and victories appear when we come to regard the lack of spirit and smallness of incentive back of them. We have five million organized workers in America. It is a great mass and a comparatively strong power. But without the proper animation and soul, this body is only a mass of clay and can accomplish but very little.

Educational Comment and Notes

THE "GET TOGETHER"

The "Get together" of students and teachers last Saturday evening was a memorable one.

Our members, men and women, about 200 in number, assembled in the Washington Irving High School, where they found the dining hall transformed into a picture of liveliness. The room was festooned with red and green streamers. The many small tables were gaily decorated and dainty refreshments were spread everywhere.

Our members seated around the tables presented a picture of jollity and good fellowship. There was no formality. The spirit of comradeship prevailed among the teachers as well as the students and also among the officials of the Union.

Sarah Shapiro, of Local No. 25, made a splendid chairman and her remarks were appropriate and humorous. Informal talks were given by teachers and students and they expressed their appreciation of the results of the educational activities carried on by our International and the opportunities given our members for development and self-expression. Among them who addressed the audience were President Schlegel who was received enthusiastically. Of the Faculty, Messrs. Sobels, Stolper and Wilbert spoke. Among the students who made short addresses were: Mary Goff, Sam Ragoff, Isidor Gornear, and Mitchell Radoff, of the Philadelphia Waist and Dress Makers' Union, who brought greetings from that local.

A telegram was read from General Secretary Baroff in which he expressed his regrets over his inability to attend due to absence from New York City on that evening.

Miss Rosale Switzky, Chairman of the Unity House of the Joint Board of the Dress and Waist Makers' Union, also addressed the audience and invited them to spend their vacation this summer at Unity House. Lack of time prevented the chairman from calling on others.

The jolly voices of those assembled, singing the Unity songs, especially composed for the Waist and Dress Makers' Unity House, rung out through the hall. Numerous folk songs were also sung. The audience appreciated the operatic airs and folk songs sung by Mrs. M. Pichandler.

The Students' Council of the Workers' University deserves special recognition for the splendid arrangements in the dining room. The Committee is indebted to Miss Rebecca Silver, of Local No. 25, for her excellent management in buying the refreshments at wholesale price, and to the following students who assisted in the decorations: Anna Panschowitz, Annie Mintz, Rose Horner, Bernard Engel, Philip Pall, Morris Silver, and others who offered their services.

LECTURES ON THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT

A large number of members of the International attended Dr. J. P. Warshaw's discussion of the Cooperative Movement at the Workers' University on April 9. The second of these discussions will be given on April 16, at 7:30 P. M.

The assistance which cooperative stores have rendered workers in some of the strikes which occurred lately emphasizes the importance of understanding the Cooperative Movement.

Among the topics discussed by Dr. Warshaw are a detailed exposition of the benefits of cooperation to the workers, the value of cooperation as a training for the future society, the relation between cooperation and the labor movement and the fundamental principles of cooperation.

Inasmuch as the number of co-operative enterprises is increasing daily, the last topic will be very instructive. It presents in detail the methods by which a cooperative undertaking should be organized.

READING AND STUDY DURING THE VACATION

A number of our members informed us that they are planning to continue their studies during the vacation and wish to purchase good books on the various subjects connected with the work of the Workers' University and the Unity Centers. These should remember that the Educational Department of the International is prepared to obtain such books from publishers at a reduction of 20 to 30 per cent. from the retail price.

Those who wish to get this reduction, will please communicate with the Educational Department, stating the name of the book, and it will be obtained for them as soon as possible.

A CALL TO THE LOCALS

Black your Educational Committee. The Educational Department will call a meeting of the Educational Committees of all the Locals very soon. The needs and interests of the members of each Local must be known by the Educational Department before it organizes its work for next year.

That work must be begun very soon.

The Executive Boards of the Locals should elect their educational committees immediately. These committees should consist of members who are interested in Labor Education and in the problems of their own Union.

Please send the names and addresses of the Educational Committees to the office of the Educational Department, Room 1003, 31 Union Square.

Next year an effort will be made to acquaint the largest possible number of our members with the big problems which confront their industry, their Union and the labor movement in general. But this cannot be done properly unless the desires of each group are known. We repeat, elect your Educational Committees and send their names and addresses to the office.

LECTURES ON BRITISH LABOR

The rapidity with which events in England are marching fairly takes one's breath away. The coal miners, the transport workers and the railway employees seem to be smothering their strength on they never did before. No one would be surprised if the entire social and economic structure of England were to be changed fundamentally as a result of what is going on there today.

The members of the International are undoubtedly following these events with more than ordinary curiosity and interest. The outcome will be of importance not only to the labor movement in England, but to the labor movement of the world. Our members will therefore find it valuable to listen to Mr. Arthur Glance's discussions on the present British labor situation. His first talk in the Workers' University took place on April 9, and the second will be given on April 16, at 7:30 P. M. Among the topics which will be discussed are the following:

The Effects of the War and the Russian Revolution; the Triple Alliance; the Shop Steward Control; the Influence of Modern Writers; the Attitude of the British Workers on Violent Revolution; the Future as Seen by the Rank and File; and the Methods which the Workers of Great Britain are Using Today.

ZIMAND'S BOOKLET ON THE "OPEN SHOP"

The drive for the "open shop" is on in earnest. All intelligent observers realize that this is nothing but an attempt to smash the Trade Union movement in this country. It is inconceivable that organized labor in America will permit the advocates of that movement to succeed in their plan. The history of the world shows that economic and social progress can never be set back. While there may be successful attempts at delay and destruction, in the long run reactionaries always fail.

In this connection, members of the International, and particularly students of the Workers' University, will be interested in the latest publication of the Bureau of Industrial Research, Savel Zimand's pamphlet on the "Open Shop." Mr. Zimand has made a thorough and painstaking study of the open shop movement in the United States, and has gathered most remarkable material which shows that the movement is nothing but a conspiracy on the part of the owners of wealth to destroy the Unions in our country.

The book attracted a great deal of attention and was mentioned editorially by every prominent American newspaper. It is published at 50 cents, but members of our Unions can obtain it at the office of the Educational Department, 31 Union Square, Room 1003, at the reduced price of 25 cents.

It is full of facts and information which every organized worker will find extremely valuable.

HICKERS OF LOCAL No. 25 ATTENTION

A group of hikers, under the leadership of Mr. S. J. Lieberman, will meet this Sunday, April 17th, at Van Cortlandt Park Station, at 9:30 A. M., and proceed to Nepperhan Park.

Bring your lunch, wear sensible shoes, and be prepared for a jolly good time.

LOCAL No. 25 TO CELEBRATE CLOSING OF UNITY CENTER

On the evening of Saturday, May 7, Local No. 25 will hold a celebration to mark the closing of an unusually successful educational season. This celebration will be held in the auditorium of the Workers' Unity Center, 314 E. 26th Street.

Arrangements are now being made by the Educational Department of the Local to make this celebration a jolly get-together of all the students and members. The students will themselves give special numbers after a very fine concert program has been heard. The evening will wind up with refreshments and general dancing.

Admission will be free to members of the union and their friends. Tickets will be ready soon and can be obtained from Miss Gluck, Room 6, 15 W. 21st Street.

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APPEAL'S POCKET SERIES ADDS 32 TITLES IN ONE MONTH

During 1920 we thought we did a great deal when we printed and distributed 2,000,000 books. During the month just passed we broke all previous records. The Appeal's Pocket Series was increased by 32 titles, bringing the total up to 205 titles. During this month we issued 32 books of editions of 10,000 each, making a total for the month of 320,000 books. We think that is a good month's work, though we hope to do more in the future. If we keep up this record, 1921 will show that we have printed 3,840,000 books, which will make us the largest book publishers in America.

These Books Are "Wine and Honey For The Soul"

Mere quantity is nothing to boast about. We do boast about the kind of books we print. We also boast about the price. Frank Harris, editor of Pearson's, has described the Appeal's Pocket Series as being "wine and honey for the soul." Wine comes high in these dry times, but this kind of wine costs little, and the quality is of the best. We could easily "dress up" the 32 books listed below and charge you anywhere from a dollar to three dollars for each, but we prefer to print the books neatly and simply, binding them in an attractive, substantial cardboard cover and charging a trifling sum for each book.

Here are the thirty-two titles which we added to our Pocket Series during last month:

1. English as She Is Spoke, by Mark Twain. One of the most delightful skits our greatest humorist ever wrote.
2. The Discovery of the Future, by H. G. Wells. This book also contains Wells' famous "This Misery of Boots."
3. Sex Life in Greece and Rome.
4. A Lecture on Shakespeare, by Robert G. Ingersoll.
5. The Man Who Would Be King, by Rudyard Kipling.
6. Proverbs of Ireland.
7. How to Strengthen Mind and Memory.
8. Common Faults in Writing English.
9. The Subjection of Women, by John Stuart Mill.
10. Plutarch's Rules of Health.
11. One of Cleopatra's Nights, by Theophile Gautier.
12. Oliver Cromwell and His Times.
13. Constitution of the League of Nations.
14. Has Life any Meaning? A debate between Frank Harris and Dr. Percy Ward.
15. Epigrams of George Bernard Shaw.
16. Epigrams of Thoreau.
17. Steps Toward Socialism. A brilliant analysis of evolutionary forces. Shows why and how Socialism is coming.
18. Artemus Ward, His Book. The best selections from one of America's best humorists.
19. Title Deeds to Land, by Herbert Spencer. This is the famous chapter which Spencer himself tried to suppress. This book also contains "The Money Question," by C. B. Hoffman.
20. Primitive Beliefs, by H. M. Tichenor. A valuable book containing extremely interesting data about the beliefs of early man.
21. Psycho-Analysis: The Key to Human Understanding, by William J. Fielding, author of "Sanity in Sex." This book was written especially for the Pocket Series and promises one of the most complete expositions that it is possible to get in any other form for eight or ten times the amount asked.
22. Realism in Literature and Art, by Clarence Darrow.
23. The History of Printing, by Dierckx.
24. How I Wrote "The Raven," by Edgar Allen Poe. A most fascinating essay.
25. The Humor of Whistler.
26. How Voltaire Fooled Priest and King, by Clarence Darrow. This is an extraordinary analysis of the great satirist's character. It goes into the question frequently asked: How did Voltaire "get away with it?"
27. Eugenics Made Plain, by Havelock Ellis.
28. The Evolution of Love, by Ellen Key.
29. Evolution Versus Religion. An essay that will interest all students of science and religion.
30. Four Essays on Sex, by Havelock Ellis.
31. Giordano Bruno: His Life, Martyrdom and Philosophy.
32. Three Lectures on Evolution, by Ernest Haeckel.

Take your pick of any of the titles listed above at only 25 cents each. That is the regular price for single copies. However, we have a special proposition to make you, because we want you to order ALL of these new books. If you ordered the entire list of 32 books at 25 cents each the price would be \$8.00, and that wouldn't be a penny too much; it would really be a good bargain. But we are not going to charge you \$8 for these 32 books listed on this page. As a special inducement, in order to win your friendship to the Appeal's Pocket Series, we will let you have the 32 books for only \$2.90. Can you resist this? Don't you feel a tug? Of course you do. Well, that tug means you want to use the blank below so that you can get this library of 32 good books for the price of one or two books issued by the profitless publishers. And the Appeal pays the postage. Given your choice between ordering a few at 25 cents each and the entire list of 32, for only \$2.90, we feel certain that you will prefer to order the whole batch. Thirty-two books for \$2.90 means only 9 cents per volume. Now you know why we printed 2,000,000 books in 1920, and 320,000 books last month.

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The Weeks' News in Cutters Union Local 10

By ISRAEL LEWIN

At the last meeting of the Cloak and Suit Division, an interesting discussion arose on the question of election or appointment by the Joint Board of Cloak and Suit business agents for the coming term which is to begin July 1st, 1921. The discussion was such a prolonged one, that it was finally decided to thrash it out completely at the next meeting of the Cloak and Suit Division to be held on May 2nd.

In former years this issue, which agitated the minds of the members of the different locals affiliated with the Joint Board, had little or no interest for our members, since it did not affect us by virtue of the fact that we were not properly affiliated with the Joint Board and our business agents were elected directly by our members. However, since last July, when the change in our relations with the Joint Board took place and our business agents began to work under the jurisdiction of the Joint Board, the election or appointment of business agents has become a burning issue with us. It is more so with us as we have always elected our representatives. And for this reason it is important that our members acquaint themselves with this problem.

Since the General Strike in 1910 up to 1918, business agents for the Joint Board were elected by the general membership, and the method used was as follows:

Every local was entitled to a pro rata share of the total number of business agents required. Nominations took place in each and every local separately and the names of the respective candidates sent to the Joint Board. The Joint Board in turn appointed an Examination Committee which was to pass on the qualifications of the different candidates. Those who were passed by the Examination Committee were then placed on a general ballot, and the entire membership of the Cloak and Suit trade was entitled to vote for them. The candidates of a given local who received the highest number of votes were then declared elected.

While this sort of an election may seem to be democratic on the surface, in reality it is very far from that, for in the first place it was found that not even ten per cent. of the entire membership voted. Secondly, the members of the bigger locals who predominated in numbers, would actually be the ones who would do the electing for every other local.

In 1918 this system was abolished and in its place the Joint Board decided to have the business agents for committee of the different locals. Anyone wishing to be a candidate was to file an application directly with the Joint Board, an Examination Committee consisting of representatives of all the locals would pass upon him; and if found capable he would then be appointed. This worked satisfactorily up to the present, for the business agents knew that in order to be officers of the union they must perform their duties thoroughly, for no amount of friendship or personal following among the members would help them to retain their positions if they were found to be incapable.

A few months ago, Local No. 1 and No. 9, which are the biggest locals in the Joint Board, started an agitation for a change from appointments to elections. The cry was raised that "we must make the union safe for democracy," and argued that this can only be accomplished by having general elections for business agents. Ambassadors were sent by the Executive Board of Local No. 1 to the different executive boards of the other locals affiliated with the Joint Board, to make propaganda for the "cause of democracy," and this is how it came

about that our Executive Board took up this matter for discussion and decided in favor of appointment of business agents by a committee of the Joint Board with the approval of the executive board of the respective locals.

Had these locals, who desired elections, decided to have each local elect its quota of business agents and then send them to the Joint Board, as was done by Local No. 10 heretofore, the Executive Board of Local No. 10 would thoroughly coincide with them. Since, however, these "saviors of democracy" insisted on having the business agents go through the melting pot of a general election which would tend to deprive the membership of the small locals from having a say in the elections of their representatives, our Executive Board unanimously declined to assist in bringing about this change. The Executive Board felt that the membership would be best served, and the work performed more efficiently, if the business agents were to be appointed by the Joint Board, with this modification: That their appointments shall be ratified by the local executive boards.

The foregoing is written with a view of making clear to our members the position of our Executive Board so that our members may not be misled by the false cry of saving democracy. It rather seems to us that the intent of the proponents of general elections was to dominate the entire administration of the union by exerting a greater influence on the general elections through their larger membership.

The following are extracts from the Executive Board minutes of the past week:

Hyman Krichewsky No. 6091 appeared on summons, charged with scabbing during the recent general strike in the waist and dress industry, at the house of H. K. Lang, 135 W. 29th St. Bro. Krichewsky states that he did go out on strike the first few days, but he could not locate any of the officials at the strike headquarters and that the following morning he returned to work without the permission of the union. On motion a fine was imposed upon Brother Krichewsky.

Michael Schwartz No. 2725 appeared on summons, charged by Business Agent Nagler with working for Sprayragen & Marks, 155 W. 29th St., during the day, and for the Trico Cloak Co., 41 Division St., at night and on Saturday afternoon. Brother Schwartz denies that he worked for the Trico Cloak Co., but states that the owner of the above concern being an uncle of his, he once called him up and had him grade a pattern from a 16 size to a 36. On motion a fine was imposed.



X'RAY

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CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10 ATTENTION!

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS

MISCELLANEOUS:	Monday, April 18th.
GENERAL:	Monday, April 25th.
CLOAK AND SUIT:	Monday, May 2nd.
WAIST AND DRESS:	Monday, May 9th.

Meetings begin at 7:30 P.M.

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